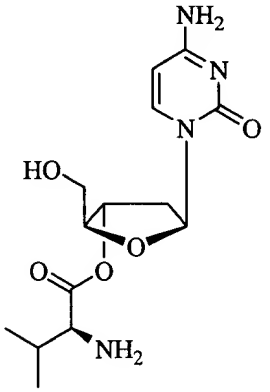
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-155 (cancelled)

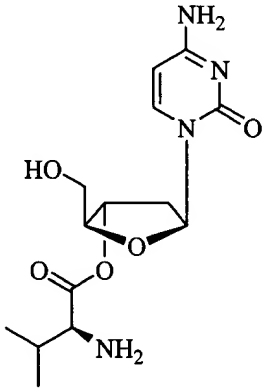
Claim 156 (currently amended): A compound of the formula



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 157-162 (cancelled)

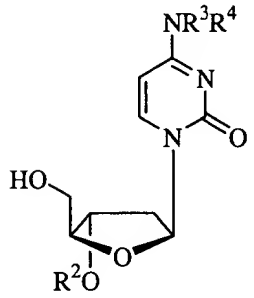
Claim 163 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with β-L-deoxyribo-thymidine.

Claims 164-174 (cancelled)

Claim 175 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is ~~selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl,~~ an amino acid residue~~, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug~~; and

R^3 and R^4 are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug.

Claim 176 (cancelled)

Claim 177 (cancelled)

Claim 178 (cancelled)

Claim 179 (currently amended): The compound of claim 175, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 180 (previously presented): The compound of claim 179, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

Claim 181 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

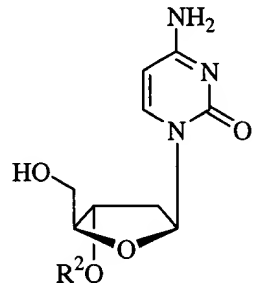
Claim 182 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is dimethylaminomethylene.

Claim 183 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-alkyl.

Claim 184 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-methyl.

Claim 185 (previously presented): The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is L-valinyl.

Claim 186 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is ~~selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl,~~ an amino acid residue~~, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug~~.

Claim 187 (cancelled)

Claim 188 (cancelled)

Claim 189 (cancelled)

Claim 190 (currently amended): The compound of claim 186, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

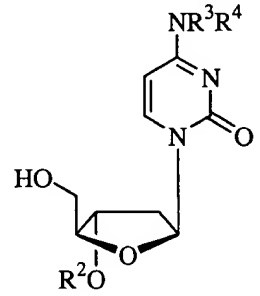
R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 191 (previously presented): The compound of claim 190, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

Claim 192 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is ~~selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl,~~ an amino acid residue~~, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug~~; and

R^3 and R^4 are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene (in particular, dimethylaminomethylene), CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 193 (cancelled)

Claim 194 (cancelled)

Claim 195 (cancelled)

Claim 196 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 197 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 196, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

Claim 198 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

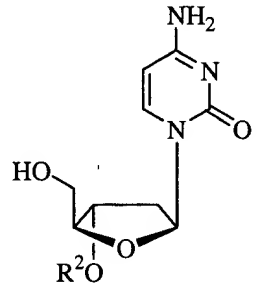
Claim 199 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is dimethylaminomethylene.

Claim 200 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-alkyl.

Claim 201 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-methyl.

Claim 202 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is L-valinyl.

Claim 203 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is ~~selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl,~~ an amino acid residue~~, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug~~;

with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 204 (cancelled)

Claim 205 (cancelled)

Claim 206 (cancelled)

Claim 207 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 203, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

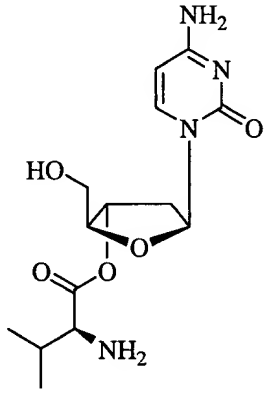
R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein~~, as in proline,~~ R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle ~~heterocyclic moiety~~;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 208 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 207, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

Claim 209 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula



or a ~~its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 210-241 (cancelled)